

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SIL-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 SIG-01 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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IO.LAB:TWINDMULLER

S/IL:DGOOD

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R 080152Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SUVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, OCON

SUBJECT: ILO WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FYI.

2. ILO WEC MET JUNE 4-17. PURPOSE WAS TO DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION. IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF WEC INCLUDE (A) RELATIVE ABSENCE OF PURELY POLITICAL ISSUES AFTER SEATING OF PLO;

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(B) GOOD CONSULTATION; COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF US BY

WESTERN GOVERNMENTS; (C) COMBINED STRENGTH OF EMPLOYERS, WORKERS AND WESTERN GOVERNMENTS; DEFUSED EFFORT BY GROUP OF 77 AND SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS TO FORCE WEC TO ADOPT UNACCEPTABLE CONCLUSIONS; AND (D) WEC CHARACTERIZED BY CONFUSION AND, IN FINAL STAGES, FATIGUE. END SUMMARY.

3. OVERALL, OUTCOME OF WEC, IN WHICH TRIPARTITE SYSTEM WORKED MOST EFFECTIVELY AND WAS CRUCIAL TO FINAL RESULT, WAS SATISFACTORY TO US, GRANDIOSE SCHEMES OF ILO STAFF FOR EXPANSION OF FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY DEFUSED, WITH FINAL REPORT TENDING TO KEEP FUTURE ILO ACTIVITIES TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH REGULAR ILO PROCEDURES AND CONFINED TO TRADITIONAL AREAS OF COMPETENCE.

4. WEC OPENED QUIETLY JUNE 4. QUESTION OF SEATING PLO HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED BY ILO GOVERNING BODY, WHICH IN SECRET BALLOT ON JUNE 4 REVERSED EARLIER DECISION TAKEN MAY 29 AND GRANTED PLO OBSERVER STATUS IN WEC. USDEL, INCLUDING U.S. EMPLOYER AND WORKER DELEGATES, ADOPTED POLICY OF BOYCOTTING WEC WHENEVER PLO GIVEN THE FLOOR, BUT ONLY OCCASION FOR WALKOUT OCCURRED JUNE 8 PLENARY. THEREAFTER WEC RELATIVELY FREE OF PURELY POLITICAL ISSUES.

5. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF WEC DONE BY FOUR WORKING GROUPS. WHILE WORKING GROUPS ON MANPOWER POLICIES AND TECHNOLOGY HAD RELATIVELY EASY TIME FORMULATING BROAD CONSENSUS CONCLUSIONS, WORKING GROUP ON "BASIC NEEDS" APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKED BY NORTH/SOUTH CONFRONTATION OVER MANY PROPOSALS RELATED TO NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. WORKING GROUP ON MULTINATIONALS HOPELESSLY DIVIDED, AND FINALLY ISSUED REPORT SUMMARIZING DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS OF EMPLOYERS, WORKERS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

6. FOUR DAYS BEFORE END OF WEC GROUP OF 77 PRODUCED ITS OWN REPORT PARALLELING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS. AFTER PROTRACTED DEBATE AND ONE OR TWO FALSE STARTS AT DRAFTING, SMALL DRAFTING GROUP INCLUDING USDEL AND CHAIRED BY INDONESIAN CHAIRMAN OF WEC COMMITTEE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHOLE SUBROTO DRAFTED SINGLE REPORT COMBINING WORKING GROUP REPORTS AND GROUP OF 77 REPORT. GROUP OF 77 AND SOVIET BLOC ATTEMPTED TO AMEND SUBROTO REPORT, BUT EFFORTS BLOCKED BY FIRM AND TOUGH RESISTANCE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYER AND WORKER DELEGATIONS, COMBINED WITH EMPLOYER AND WORKER GROUPS AND WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. REPORT ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND SUBMITTED TO PLENARY WITHOUT AMENDMENTS. EMPLOYER AND WORKER GROUPS ENJOYED

SUPPORT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATES FROM MOST NON-BLOC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GROUP OF 77 COUNTRIES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO ACCEPT THE DOCUMENT WITH ONLY THE MOST GENERAL RESERVATION THAT IT DID NOT AFFECT POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE U.S. AT UNCTAD IV AND AT THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE UNGA.

7. WEC NEVER ESCAPED BASIC CONFUSION OVER PROCEDURES AND OBJECTIVES. FINAL REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO GOVERNING BODY WITHOUT SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION. EFFORTS TO PRODUCE ACCEPTABLE CONSENSUS REPORT INVOLVED LATE NIGHT SESSIONS LAST THREE DAYS WITH COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT ADOPTED IN PLENARY, WITH NO AMENDMENTS 1:20 A.M. JUNE 18. FINAL REPORT ADOPTED WITHOUT VOTE, BUT OPEN TO RESERVATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS AS EXPRESSED IN THE

CONFERENCE.

8. THROUGHOUT WEC U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS DISPLAYED HIGH DEGREE OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORT. STRATEGY MEETINGS HELD MOST MORNINGS BEFORE WEC TO FORMULATE UNIFIED POSITIONS AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. GROUP OF 77 EFFORTS, SPEARHEADED BY LATIN AMERICANS (MEXICO, BOLIVIA, CUBA), NOT AS SOLID AS EXPECTED WITH MANY APPARENT CRACKS, ESPECIALLY AMONG ASIANS AND AFRICANS.

9. FINAL DOCUMENT REPORTED NO CONSENSUS ON ROLE OF MULTI-NATIONALS IN EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND MAKES NO ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNING BODY. DOCUMENT RECOMMENDS THAT ILO SET UP TRIPARTITE WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND CALLS ON ILO TO INITIATE STUDIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF MIGRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT. CALLS ON ILO TO ASSIST NATIONAL BASIC NEEDS STRATEGIES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ALREADY ESTABLISHED WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, AND RAISES POSSIBILITY OF WORLD WIDE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY AND STATISTICAL EFFORT TO DEFINE NATURE EXTENT AND CAUSES OF POVERTY.

10. DEPARTMENT INTERESTED IN GENERAL ASSESSMENT, IF ANY, OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO WEC. KISSINGER

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